



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Medical Center**  
**4150 Clement Street**  
**San Francisco, CA 94121**

JAN 15 2016

In Reply Refer To: 662/138

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
California Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Subject: Section 106 Initiation for the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center Building 203 Extension Project**

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing an addition to Building 203 (Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit A-Wing) for the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SFVAMC) at Fort Miley in San Francisco, California. The SFVAMC is located on a 29-acre site in northwest San Francisco (see Exhibits 1 and 2) and is a major tertiary care facility that serves as a VA regional referral center for specialized medical and surgical programs. The 12-acre SFVAMC National Register Historic District (see Exhibit 3) lies within the boundaries of the SFVAMC Fort Miley Campus, and the proposed project is located outside of the Historic District (see Exhibit 4).

Per the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the *Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Long Range Development Plan for the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center* (the PA) dated November 25, 2014 and executed January 9, 2015, the VA is contacting you to initiate consultation in the early stages of project development prior to completing the Schematic Development (roughly 35 percent design) documents of the proposed Building 203 Extension project. As the project site for this sub-phase of the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) is located outside of the SFVAMC Historic District and outside of the visual range of the SFVAMC Historic District and the Fort Miley Reservation Historic District, we are following the consultation procedures outlined under PA Review Category D, as previously identified in Attachment B of the PA.

This letter constitutes the review initiation for the proposed project per the directives of Review Category D and includes a written description of the proposed sub-phase and any way in which it differs from what is described in the LRDP Finding of Effect (FOE) (included in Table B-1 of the PA).

## **Proposed Sub-Phase**

### *Existing Conditions*

The proposed project, identified as SFVAMC LRDP Sub-phase 1.14 in Attachment B of the PA includes the construction of an addition to the interior renovation of portions of the ground floor at the west wing of Building 203, which is located outside of and is not a contributing resource to the SFVAMC Historic District. Building 203 was constructed in 1976 and is essentially rectangular in plan with two wings extending to the south. The approximately 335,011 square foot building stands four stories tall with a basement level which is visible only at the south side due to the slope of the site. Building 203 is situated just west of the SFVAMC Historic District boundary in a central location at the south end of the campus. The proposed project site at the southwest corner of Building 203 is not visible from either the SFVAMC Historic District or the Fort Miley Reservation Historic District due to distance, existing buildings, and topography.

### *Building Improvements*

The proposed project includes the construction of a new, raised, one-story, 1,100 square foot addition to the existing Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) suite and the renovation of approximately 8,000 square feet of the existing PICU. The new construction would be located at the southern portion of the west wing of Building 203 over the existing basement extension and service area. The proposed ground floor addition would be executed as a rectangular volume extending out atop new steel columns. The three exterior design options currently under consideration propose a variety of exterior finishes in combination with extensive areas of glazing. The renovation and expansion would address architectural, mechanical, electrical, hazardous material, plumbing, structural, safety and security deficiencies.

The Building 203 Extension project (Sub-phase 1.14) is described in the PA as follows:

Sub-phase 1.14 would involve expanding the existing building with new construction to the south. This new proposed construction would be outside the SFVAMC HD and not within the visual range of the Fort Miley Military Reservation HD.

PA Attachment B also includes the finding that the proposed project does not have the potential to contribute to the adverse effect on historic properties. The proposed improvements coincide with the project description as outlined in Table B-1 of the PA, except for the nomenclature clarification from C-Wing to A-Wing. One proposed design option does include a new enclosed covered patio at the south western side of Building 203, which was not specifically mentioned in the previous description. Like the new construction to the south, the proposed covered patio to the west would also be outside of the visual range of both historic districts and would not have the potential to contribute to the adverse effect on historic properties.

## **Public Involvement**

In accordance with our responsibilities under the PA, the SFVAMC will post this

submission to its LRDP Section 106 website and notify all other Consulting Parties within 30 days of transmittal to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If SHPO request additional information, then the SFVAMC will post the additional submission or objection to the LRDP Section 106 website and again notify all consulting parties.

### **Summary**

With this letter, the VA would like to initiate the review of the SFVAMC Building 203 Extension Project (Sub-phase 1.14 of the LRDP) in accordance with the PA under Review Category D and in compliance with Section 106 of NHPA. We request your comments or guidance specific to this project.

Should you have any questions about this project, please contact Ms. Robin Flanagan, Planning Office at (415) 750-2049.

Sincerely,

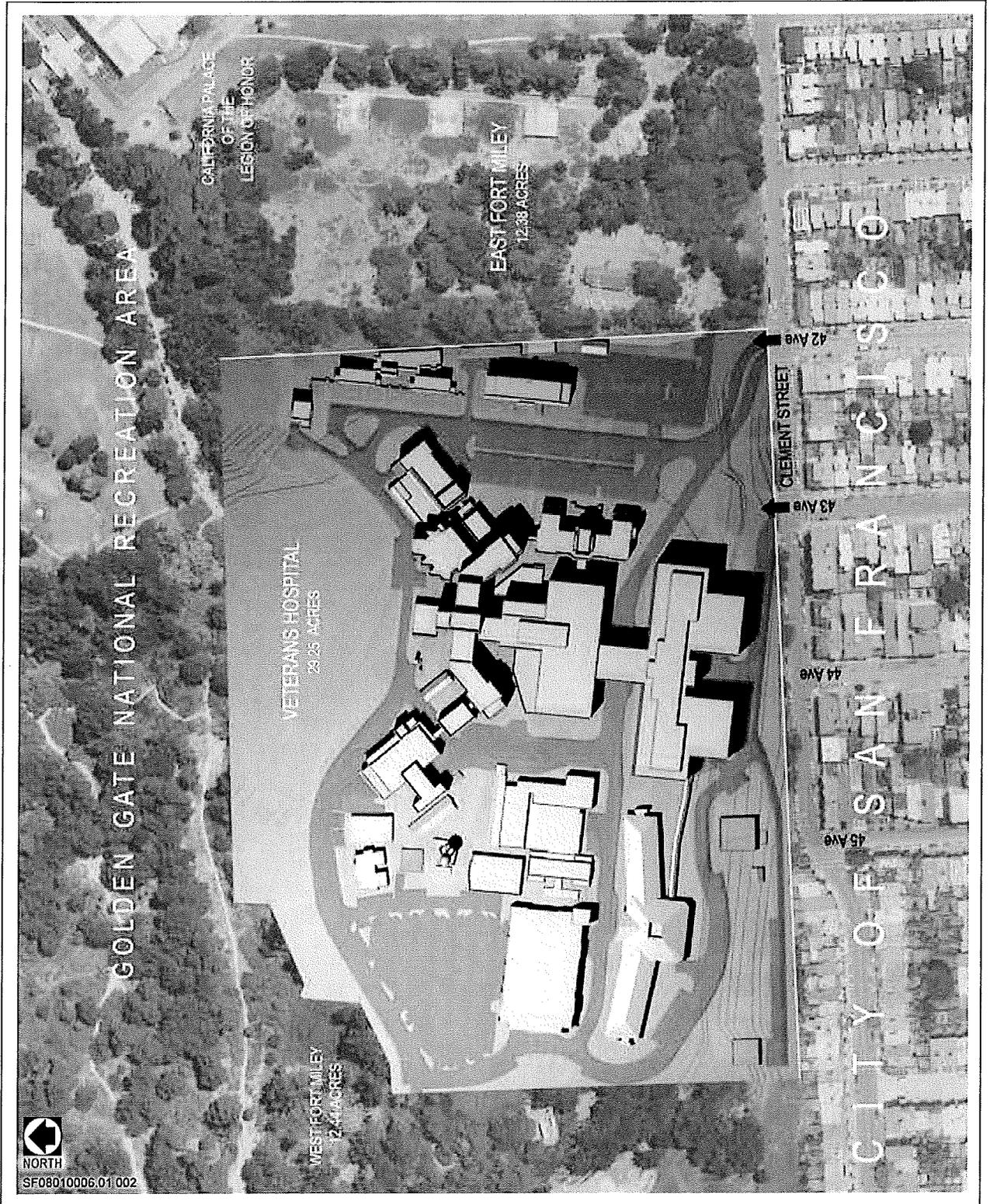


Bonnie S. Graham, MBA  
Medical Center Director

Attachments: Exhibit 1 (Location of SFVAMC Fort Miley Campus within Urban Context of San Francisco)  
Exhibit 2 (Existing SFVAMC Fort Miley Campus)  
Exhibit 3 (SFVAMC Historic District)  
Exhibit 4 (Approximate Project Limits)  
Existing Conditions Photographs

Cc:  
Chanh Lam  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
National Park Service.

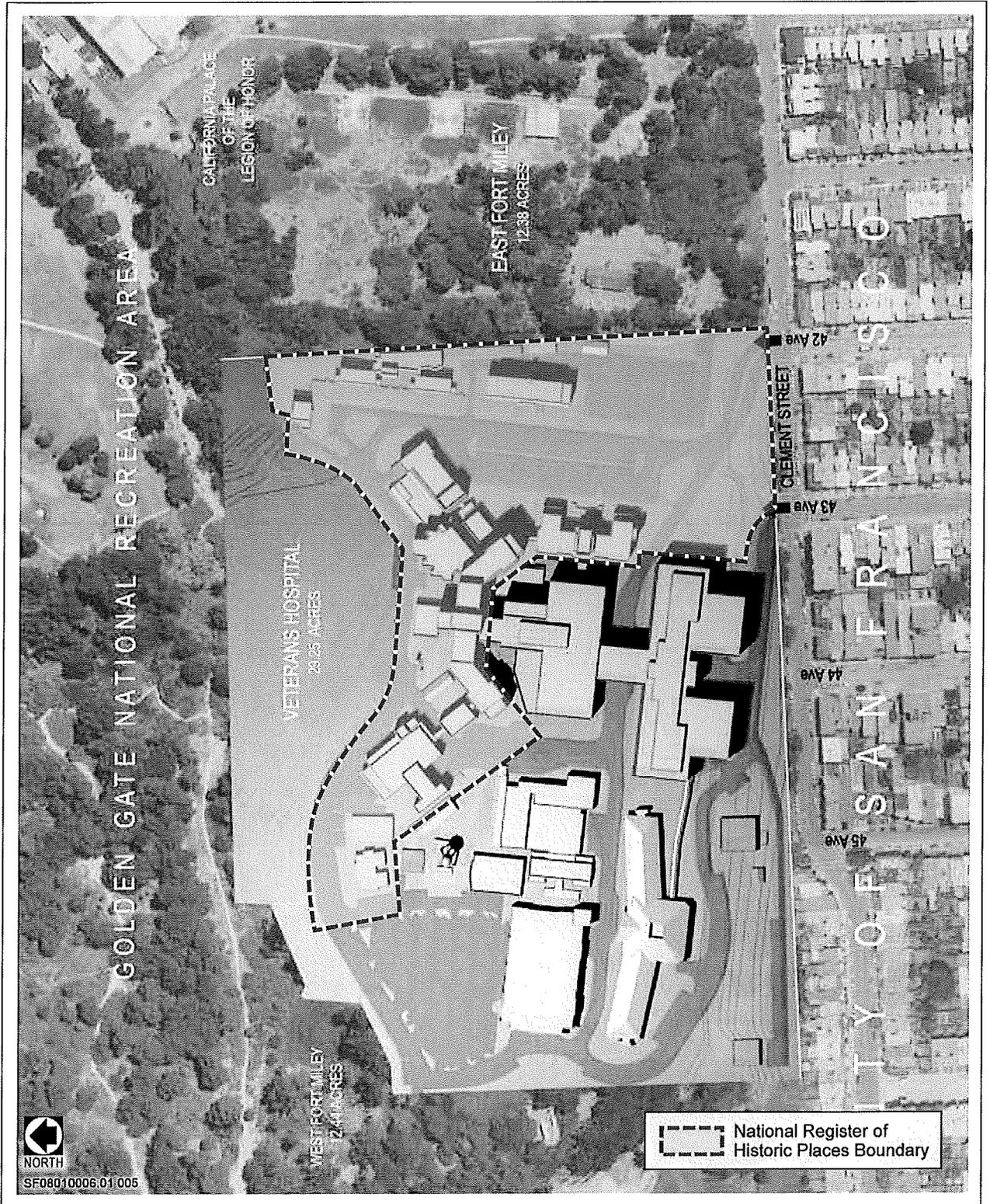




Source: USVA, 2010

**Exhibit 2:**

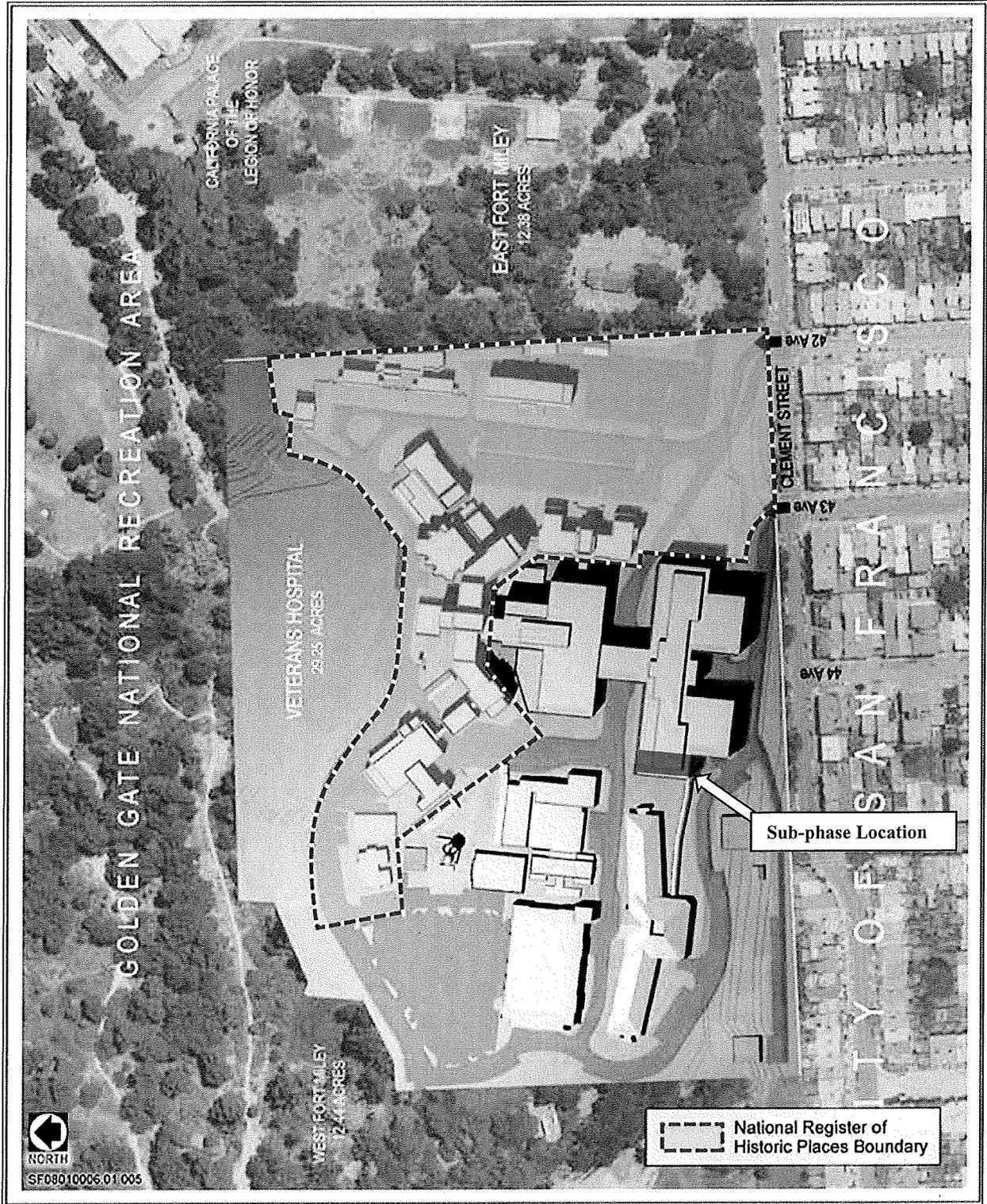
**Existing SFVAMC Fort Miley Campus**



Source: SFVAMC Institutional Master Plan

**Exhibit 3:**

**SFVAMC Historic District**



Source: SFVAMC Institutional Master Plan (Altered by Author)

**Exhibit 4:**

**Sub-phase Location**



Photograph 1: View toward the project site and the south facade of the west wing looking north.



Photograph 2: View toward the project site and a southwest corner of Building 203.